

**Vertical Horizon
VH-8G-L3
Gigabit Ethernet
Switch**

USER GUIDE

9033705-01

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Equipment Type/Environment: **Networking
Equipment, for use
in a Commercial
or Light Industrial
Environment.**

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Preface

Purpose

This guide provides information about the features and applications of the Enterasys Networks Vertical Horizon VH-8G-L3 layer 3 switch.

Audience

This guide is intended for Ethernet Local Area Network (LAN) administrators and Management Information Systems (MIS) personnel with the following background:

- Working knowledge of Ethernet LANs
- Familiarity with Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) and Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)

Conventions

This section describes the conventions used in this guide.

Message Formats

Two types of messages, identified by icons, appear in the text:



A note informs you of special circumstances.



A caution indicates the possibility of equipment damage

Keyboard Entries

This guide uses the following conventions for keyboard entries:

- When you read “enter”, type the text and press the [Enter] key.
- Example: Enter the Gateway IP address and press the [Enter] key.
- When you read “select”, highlight the menu item and press the [Enter] key.

Other Conventions

This guide uses the following typographical conventions:

- Initial Caps Menu titles and console selections.
- [Enter] Used to designate the Enter or Return key.
- `Courier font` Screen messages and user prompts.
- Selection Describes a user-configurable interface item.
- Field Describes a read-only information item.

Organization

Chapter 1. Product Overview: Describes the features of the Switch, front and rear panel components and application examples.

Chapter 2. Installation: Describes the content of your Switch shipment, lists site requirements, and provides

mounting instructions. Instructions for making connections and powering up the Switch are provided as well.

Chapter 3. Connecting the Switch: This describes how to connect the VH-8G-L3 to your Ethernet network, including connecting the Switch to an end node and connecting the Switch to hub or switch.

Appendix A. Technical Specifications: Provides a list of standards compliance and certifications as well as physical and operational specifications.

Appendix B. Flow Control: Describes how the flow control features are used to provide a mechanism for protecting the Switch from overload conditions and to keep additional traffic off the network.

Appendix C. Acronyms and Abbreviations: Provides definitions for a list of common acronyms and abbreviations used within the installation guide and the networking industry.

Product Overview

This chapter provides the following information:

- Product Description
- Features
- Front and Rear Panel Component Descriptions
- Feature Summaries
- Application Example

Description

This section describes Layer 3 functionality and Layer 2 and Layer 3 features of the VH-8G-L3. Some background information about Ethernet/Fast Ethernet, Gigabit Ethernet, and switching technology is presented. This is intended for readers who may not be familiar with the concepts of layered switching and routing but is not intended to be a complete or in-depth discussion.

Layer 3 Switching

Layer 3 switching is an integration of two proven technologies: switching and routing. In fact, Layer 3 switches are running the same routing routines and protocols as traditional routers. The main difference between traditional routing and Layer 3 switching is the addition of a group of Layer 2 switching domains and the execution of routing routines for most packets via an ASIC – in hardware instead of software.

Where a traditional router would have one, or at best a few, Fast Ethernet ports, the VH-8G-L3 Layer 3 switch has 8 Gigabit Ethernet ports.

The VH-8G-L3 can be thought of as eight Gigabit Ethernet Layer 2 switching domains with a wire-speed router between each domain. It can be deployed in a network between a traditional router and the intranetwork. The traditional router and its associated WAN interface would then handle routing between the intranetwork and the WAN (the Internet, for example) while the Layer 3 switch would handle routing within the LAN (between the Fast Ethernet Layer 2 domains).

The VH-8G-L3 can also replace key traditional routers for data centers and server farms, routing between these locations and the rest of the network, and providing 8 ports of Layer 2 switching performance combined with wire-speed routing.

The Functions of a Layer 3 Switch

Traditional routers, once the core components of large networks, became an obstacle to the migration toward next-generation networks. Attempts to make software-based routers forward packets more quickly were inadequate.

A layer 3 switch does everything to a packet that a traditional router does:

- Determines forwarding path based on Layer 3 information
- Validates the integrity of the Layer 3 header via checksum
- Verifies packet expiration and updates accordingly
- Processes and responds to any optional information
- Updates forwarding statistics in the Management Information Base
- Applies security controls

A Layer 3 switch can be placed anywhere within a network core or backbone, easily and cost-effectively replacing the

traditional collapsed backbone router. The VH-8G-L3 Layer 3 switch communicates with a WAN router using a standard Gigabit Ethernet port. Multiple VH-8G-L3 switches can also be linked.

Features

The VH-8G-L3 was designed for easy installation and high performance in an environment where traffic on the network and the number of users increase continuously.

Switch features include:

Ports

- Six 1000BASE-SX (SC-type fiber transceiver).
- Two GBIC-based Gigabit Ethernet ports.
- RS-232 DCE Diagnostic port (console port) for setting up and managing the Switch via a connection to a console terminal or PC using a terminal emulation program.

Performance Features

Layer 2 Features

- 16 Gbps switching fabric capacity.
- Wire speed packet forwarding rate per system.
- Store and forward switching scheme.
- Auto-polarity detection and correction of incorrect polarity on the transmit and receive twisted-pair at each port.
- IEEE 802.3z compliant.
- IEEE 802.3x compliant Flow Control support.

-
- 8K active MAC address entry table per device with automatic learning and aging (10 to 9999 seconds).
 - 512 KB packet buffer per device.
 - Broadcast and Multicast storm filtering.
 - Supports Port Mirroring.
 - Supports Port Trunking – up to four trunk groups may be set up. One trunk group can have from two to eight ports.
 - 802.1D Spanning Tree support.
 - 802.1Q Tagged VLAN support – up to 63 User-defined VLANs per device (one VLAN is reserved for internal use).

GVRP – (GARP VLAN Registration Protocol, where GARP represents a Generic Attribute Registration Protocol (GARP), support for dynamic VLAN registration.

- 802.1p Priority support with 4 priority queues.
- IGMP Snooping support.

Layer 3 Switch Features

- Wire speed IP forwarding.
- Hardware-based Layer 3 IP switching.
- IP packet forwarding rate of 12 Mpps.
- 2K active IP address entry table per device.
- Supports RIP – (Routing Information Protocol) version I and II.
- Supports IP version 4.
- IGMP version 1 and 2 support (RFC 1112 and RFC 2236).
IGMP can be globally enabled or disabled for all VLANs.

-
- Supports PIM Dense Mode (draft-ietf-pim-v2-dm-03.txt).
 - Supports DVMRP (draft-ietf-idmr-dvmrp-v3-09.txt).
 - Supports Username to IP address mapping.
 - Supports IP multi-netting.
 - Supports IP packet de-fragmentation.
 - Supports Path MTU discovery.
 - Supports 802.1D frame support.

Traffic Classification and Prioritization

- Based on 802.1p priority bits.
- Based on IP source and destination addresses.
- 4 priority queues.
- Supports Port and MAC based priorities.

Management

- RS-232 console port for out-of-band network management via a console terminal or PC.
- Spanning Tree Algorithm Protocol for creation of alternative backup paths and prevention of network loops.
- SNMP v.1 Agent.
- Telnet remote control console.
- Fully configurable either in-band or out-of-band control via SNMP based software.
- Flash memory for software upgrades. This can be done in-band via TFTP or out-of-band via the console.

-
- Built-in SNMP management:
 - Bridge MIB (RFC 1493)
 - RMON MIB (RFC 1757) – 4 groups
 - MIB-II (RFC 1213)
 - Interface MIB ext. (RFC 2233)
 - CIDR MIB (RFC 2096) – excluding the IP Forwarding Table.
 - 802.1p MIB (RFC 2674).
 - Supports Web-based management.
 - TFTP support.
 - BOOTP support.
 - IP filtering on the management interface.
 - DHCP Client support.
 - DHCP Relay Agent.
 - Password enabled.

Optional Redundant Power Supply

The VH-8G-L3 Gigabit Ethernet Layer 3 Switch supports an optional Redundant Power Supply to provide automatic power supply monitoring and switchover to a redundant power supply in case of a failure in the VH-8G-L3's internal power supply.

Gigabit Ethernet Technology

Gigabit Ethernet is an extension of IEEE 802.3 Ethernet utilizing the same packet structure, format, and support for CSMA/CD protocol, full duplex, flow control, and management objects, but with a tenfold increase in

theoretical throughput over 100Mbps Fast Ethernet and a one hundred-fold increase over 10Mbps Ethernet. Since it is compatible with all 10Mbps and 100Mbps Ethernet environments, Gigabit Ethernet provides a straightforward upgrade without wasting a company's existing investment in hardware, software, and trained personnel.

Front Panel

The front panel of the Switch consists of LED indicators, an RS-232 communication port, two GBIC-based Gigabit Ethernet ports, and six 1000BASE-SX ports.

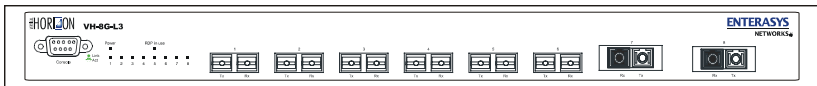


Figure 1-1. Front panel view of the Switch

- Comprehensive LED indicators display the status of the switch and the network (see the *LED Indicators* section below).
- An RS-232 DCE console port for setting up and managing the switch via a connection to a console terminal or PC using a terminal emulation program.
- Six Gigabit Ethernet ports (1000BASE-SX).
- Two GBIC-based Gigabit Ethernet ports.

Rear Panel

The rear panel of the Switch consists of a slot for the optional Redundant Power Supply and an AC power connector.

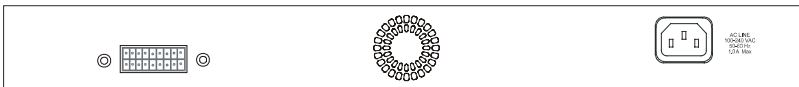


Figure 1-2. Rear panel view of the Switch

- The AC power connector is a standard three-pronged connector that supports the power cord. Plug-in the female connector of the provided power cord into this socket, and the male side of the cord into a power outlet. Supported input voltages range from 100 ~ 240 VAC at 50 ~ 60 Hz.

Side Panels

The right side panel of the Switch contains two system fans (see the top part of the diagram below). The left side panel contains heat vents.

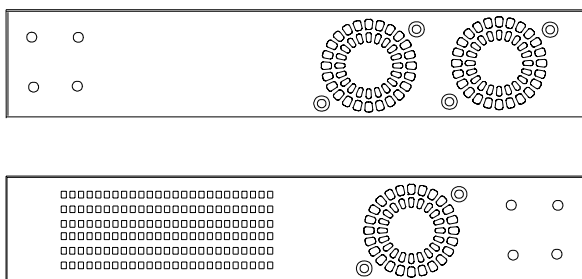


Figure 1-3. Side panel views of the Switch

- The system fans are used to dissipate heat. The sides of the system also provide heat vents to serve the same purpose. Do not block these openings, and leave at least 6 inches of space at the rear and sides of the Switch for proper ventilation. Be reminded that without proper heat dissipation and air circulation, system components might overheat, which could lead to system failure.

LED Indicators

The LED indicators of the Switch include Power, Link/Act, and RDP in use. The following shows the LED indicators for the Switch along with an explanation of each indicator.

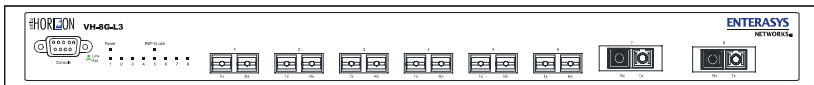


Figure 1-4. The LED indicators

- **Power** This indicator on the front panel will light green approximately 2 seconds after the Switch is powered on to indicate the ready state of the device. The LED will blink green while downloading new software for the Switch, or if the system's configuration has changed and will light yellow when an error occurs.
- **Link/Act** These indicators are located to the left of each port. They are lit when there is a secure connection (or link) to a device at any of the ports. The LEDs blink whenever there is reception or transmission (i.e. Activity--Act) of data occurring at a port.
- **RDP in use** This indicator is lit when the optional Redundant Power Supply is being used.

Feature Summaries

The following summaries describe VH-8G-L3 features in areas such as standards compliance, functionality, performance, and options.

Local Console Management

A local console is a terminal or a workstation running a terminal emulation program that is connected directly to the Switch via the RS-232 console port on the front of the Switch. A console connection is referred to as an 'Out-of-Band' connection, meaning that console is connected to the switch using a different circuit than that used for normal network communications. So, the console can be used to set up and manage the Switch even if the network is down.

Local console management uses the terminal connection to operate the console program built-in to the Switch. A

network administrator can manage, control and monitor the switch from the console program.

The VH-8G-L3 contains a CPU, memory for data storage, flash memory for configuration data, operational programs, and SNMP agent firmware. These components allow the switch to be actively managed and monitored from either the console port or the network itself (out-of-band, or in-band).

SNMP Management

The Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) is an OSI layer 7 (the application layer) protocol for remotely monitoring and configuring network devices. SNMP enables network management stations to read and modify the settings of gateways, routers, switches, and other network devices. SNMP can be used to perform many of the same functions as a directly connected console, or can be used within an integrated network management software package such as NetSight.

Flow Control

The VH-8G-L3 supports flow control (back pressure handling) on a per-port basis. The limit at which flow control is applied to a port is based on the amount of memory used by the packets on an input port.

- 802.3x Flow Control – if the port is configured in full duplex mode, a MAC PAUSE packet is sent to inhibit the flow of packets to the port for a short amount of time.

Spanning Tree Protocol

The VH-8G-L3 switch complies with the IEEE 802.1D Spanning Tree Protocol standard and allows for the blocking of links between switches that form loops within the network. When multiple links between switches are detected, a primary link is established. Duplicated links are blocked from use and become standby links. The protocol allows for the duplicate links to be used in the event of a failure of the

primary link. Once the Spanning Tree Protocol is configured and enabled, primary links are established and duplicated links are blocked automatically. The reactivation of the blocked links (at the time of a primary link failure) is also accomplished automatically – without operator intervention.

Port Trunking

Port trunking is used to combine a number of ports together to make a single high-bandwidth data pipeline. The participating ports are called members of a port trunking group, with one port designated as the master port of the group. Since all members of the port trunking group must be configured to operate in the same manner, the configuration of the master port is applied to all members of the port trunking group. Thus, when configuring the ports in a port trunking group, you only need to configure the master port.

The VH-8G-L3 supports 4 port trunking groups, which may include from 2 to 8 switch ports each.

IEEE 802.1Q VLANs

IEEE 802.1Q (tagged) VLANs are implemented on the VH-8G-L3. 802.1Q VLANs allow tagging, which enables them to span the entire network (assuming all switches on the network are IEEE 802.1Q-compliant). IEEE 802.1Q VLANs also allow for dynamic VLAN registration using GVRP.

VLANs allow a network to be segmented in order to reduce the size of broadcast domains. All packets entering a VLAN will only be forwarded to the stations (over IEEE 802.1Q enabled switches) that are members of that VLAN, and this includes broadcast, multicast and unicast packets from unknown sources.

VLANs can also provide a level of security to your network. IEEE 802.1Q VLANs will only deliver packets between stations that are members of the VLAN.

Broadcast Storm Control

Broadcast storms consist of broadcast packets that flood and/or are looped on a network causing noticeable performance degradation and in extreme cases, network failure. Broadcast storms can be caused by malfunctioning NICs, bad cable connections and applications or protocols that generate broadcast traffic, among others.

Broadcast storms have long been a concern for network administrators with routers traditionally being used to prevent their occurrence, and if that failed, limit their scope. However, with the advent of VLANs, switches are now able to limit broadcast domains better and cheaper than routers. The VH-8G-L3 has broadcast sensors and filters built into each port to control broadcast storms.

IP Routing

IP is responsible for getting packets to the destination specified in the destination address. The task of determining how to get a packet from the source to the destination is referred to as routing.

The VH-8G-L3 allows the creation of IP subnets and can perform IP routing between them. Each IP subnet corresponds to an IEEE 802.1Q VLAN, previously defined on the Switch.

Factory Defaults

Table 1-1 lists the default settings for the Switch configuration parameters. Each parameter can be changed via the console menus or Telnet.

Parameter	Default Value
Load Mode	Ethernet
Switch Operation Mode	Layer 2
Configuration Update	Disabled
Firmware Update	Disabled

Configuration File Name	None
Firmware File Name	None
Out-Of-Band Baud Rate	9600
RS232 Mode	Console
IP Address	0.0.0.0
Subnet Mask	0.0.0.0
Default Gateway	0.0.0.0
BootP Service	Enabled
TFTP Server IP Address	0.0.0.0
IGMP Time Out	260 secs
IGMP	Disabled
Partition Mode	Enabled
Address table lock	Disabled
Device HOL	Disabled
Port HOL	Enabled
Console Time Out	15 min
User Name	Admin
Password	None
Device STA	Enabled
Port Enable	Enabled
Bridge Max Age	20 secs
Bridge Hello Time	2 sec
Bridge Forward Delay	15 sec
Bridge Priority	32768
Device STA Cost For A 10 Mbps Port	100
Device STA Cost For A 100 Mbps Port	19
Device STA Cost For A 1000 Mbps Port	4
Device STA Priority	128
Forwarding Table Aging Time	300 secs
Address Lookup Mode	Level 1
Auto-Negotiation	Enabled
Flow Control	Disabled

Backpressure	Disabled
Port Lock	Disabled
Broadcast Storm Rising Action	Do Nothing
Broadcast Storm Falling Action	Do Nothing
Broadcast Storm Rising Threshold	128Kpps
Broadcast Storm Falling Threshold	< 128Kpps
Community String	“public”, “private”
VLAN Mode	IEEE 802.1Q
Management In A VLAN	All
SNMP VLAN(802.1Q)	1
Default Port VID	1
Ingress Rule Checking	Disabled
Mirror Src Port <->Target Port	1←2
Port Mirroring	Disabled
DVMRP (L3 Mode Only)	Disabled
PIM Dense Mode (L3 Mode Only)	Disabled

Table 1-1. Factory Default Settings

2. Installation

Inspecting Your Shipment

Open the shipping carton of the Switch and carefully unpack its contents. The carton should contain the following items:

- One VH-8G-L3 8-port Gigabit Ethernet Layer 3 Switch.
- Mounting kit: 2 mounting brackets and screws.
- Four rubber feet with adhesive backing.
- One AC power cord.
- One ESD wrist strap.
- Product Documentation.

If any item is found missing or damaged, please contact your local Enterasys sales agent for replacement.

Installation

Use the following guidelines when choosing a place to install the Switch:

- The surface must support at least 3 kg.
- The power outlet should be within 1.82 meters (6 feet) of the device.
- Visually inspect the power cord and see that it is secured to the AC power connector.
- Make sure that there is proper heat dissipation from and adequate ventilation around the Switch. Do not place heavy objects on the Switch.

Desktop or Shelf Installation

When installing the Switch on a desktop or shelf, the rubber feet included with the device should first be attached. Attach these cushioning feet on the bottom at each corner of the device. Allow adequate space for ventilation between the device and the objects around it.

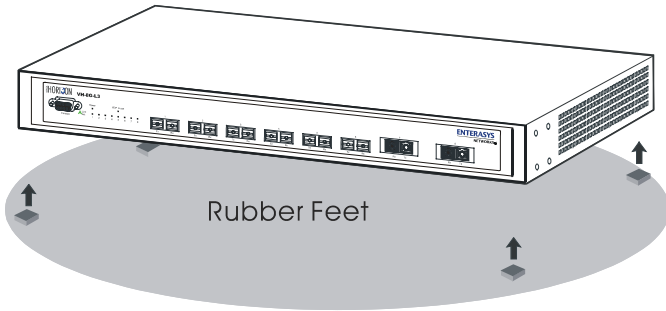


Figure 2-1. Installing rubber feet for desktop installation

Rack Installation

The VH-8G-L3 can be mounted in an EIA standard-sized, 19-inch rack, which can be placed in a wiring closet with other equipment. To install, attach the mounting brackets on the switch's side panels (one on each side) and secure them with the screws provided.

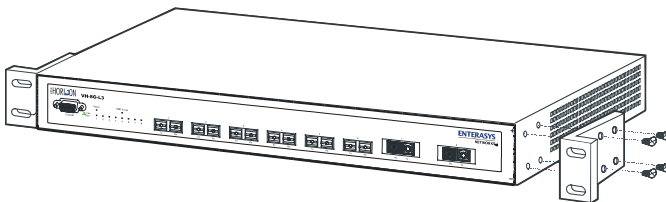


Figure 2-2A. Attaching the mounting brackets

Then, use the screws provided with the equipment rack to mount the Switch on the rack.

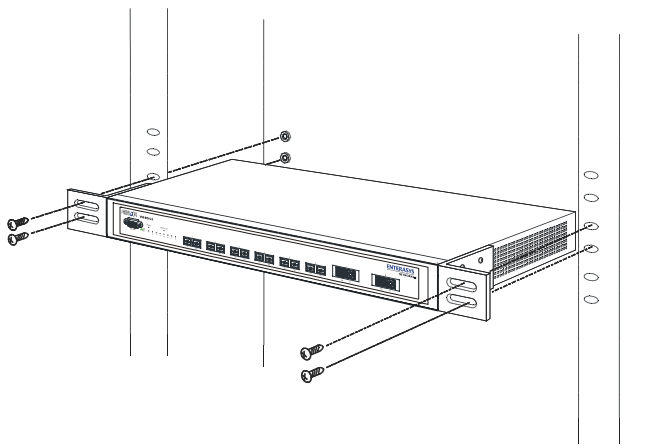


Figure 2-2B. Installing the Switch on an equipment rack

Power on

The VH-8G-L3 can be used with AC power supply 100-240 VAC, 50 - 60 Hz. Simply connect the power cord to the AC power connector located on the rear panel of the Switch and to AC power outlet. The Switch's power supply will then adjust to the local power source automatically and may be started without having any or all LAN segment cables connected.

After the AC power is connected, the LED indicators should respond as follows:

- The Power LED indicator will remain steady while the Switch loads onboard software and performs a self-test.
- When linked with the redundant power supply, the "RDP in use" LED will blink orange.

Power Failure

As a precaution in the event of a power failure, unplug the Switch. When power is resumed, plug the Switch back in.

3. Connecting The Switch

This chapter describes how to connect the VH-8G-L3 to your Ethernet network.

Switch to End Node

A PC can be connected to the Switch via a fiber optic cable. The PC can be connected to any of the eight ports of the Switch.

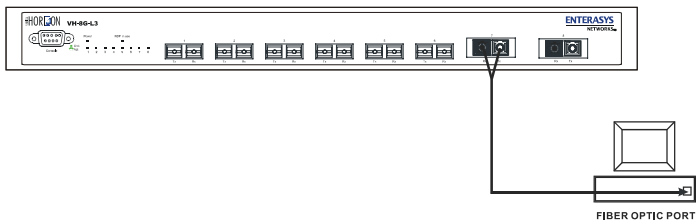


Figure 3-1. Example of the Switch connected to a PC or Workstation

The LED indicators for the port the end node is connected to are lit according to the capabilities of the NIC. If LED indicators are not illuminated after making a proper connection, check the PC's LAN card, the cable, switch conditions, and connections.

The following LED indicator state is possible for an end node to switch connection: The Link/Act LED indicator lights up upon hooking up a PC that is powered on.

Switch to Hub or Switch

The Switch can be connected to another switch or other devices (routers, bridges, etc.) via a fiber optic cable.

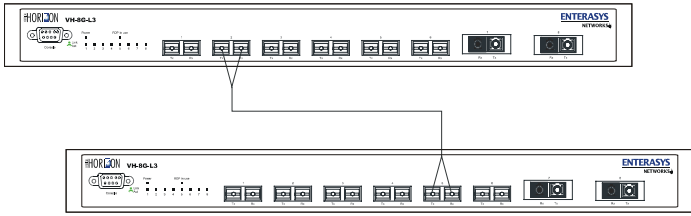


Figure 3-2. Example of Switch to switch connection

Appendix A. Technical Specifications

General

Standards:	IEEE 802.3z 1000BASE-SX Gigabit Ethernet
	IEEE 802.1 P/Q VLAN
	IEEE 802.3x Full-duplex Flow Control
	ANSI/IEEE 802.3 auto-negotiation
Protocols:	CSMA/CD
Data Transfer Rates:	Half-duplex Full-duplex
Gigabit Ethernet	n/a 2000Mbps
Topology:	Star
Network Cables:	
Fiber Optic:	IEC 793-2:1992
	Type A1a - 50/125um multimode
	Type A1b - 62.5/125um multimode
	Use SC optical connector
Number of Ports:	8 Gigabit Ethernet (including 2 GBIC-based)

Physical and Environmental

AC inputs:	100 - 240 VAC, 50/60 Hz (internal universal power supply)
Power Consumption:	40 watts maximum
DC fans:	4 built-in 40 x 40 x10 mm fans
Operating Temperature:	0 to 40 degrees Celsius

Storage Temperature: -40 to 70 degrees Celsius

Humidity: Operating: 10% to 85% RH non-condensing

Dimensions: 441 mm x 210 mm x 43 mm (1U), 19 inch rack-mount width

Weight: 2.61 kg

EMI: FCC Class A, CE Class A, VCCI Class A, BSMI Class A, C-Tick Class A

FCC Part 15/IECES-003 (Canada), VCCI Class A ITE, EN55022/EN50082-1 or EN%24, C-Tick (AS/NZS3548, BSMI (CNS 13438)

Safety: UL/CUL, TUV/GS

UL 1950 & CSA22.2 No 950, IEC 950 (CB), TUV (EN60950)

Performance

Transmission Method:	Store-and-forward
RAM Buffer:	16 MB per device
Filtering Address Table:	8K MAC address per device
Packet Filtering/ Forwarding Rate:	Full-wire speed for all connections 1,488,000 pps per port (for 1000Mbps)
MAC Address Learning:	Automatic update.
Forwarding Table Age Time:	Max age:10–9999 seconds Default = 300.

Appendix B. Flow Control

Flow control is a mechanism that allows you to protect the switch from overload conditions and to keep additional traffic off the network when excessive congestion will result.

Flow Control for Half- and Full-Duplex Applications

Each port of the switch has a transmit queue which buffers frames to be sent out on that port. In this example, large amounts of data are being sent from Workstation A (connected to port X) and other ports on the switch to Workstation B (connected to port Y). The queue on port Y starts filling up with data until it reaches a determined threshold. The packet that causes the threshold to be exceeded triggers the flow-control function on the port from which the packet entered the switch, in this case port X.

Since port X is configured with flow control set to Enabled, the switch responds by initiating a pause frame (full-duplex applications) or back-pressure mechanism (half-duplex applications). The pause frame causes Workstation A to stop sending packets. After a certain amount of time has elapsed, determined by a value in the pause frame, Workstation A will resume sending data. Similarly, the back-pressure mechanism forces Workstation A to stop sending packets by inducing collisions on port X.

The pause-frame flow-control mechanism supported by the VH-8G-L3 conforms with the IEEE 802.3x specification for full-duplex flow control.

For the full-duplex pause-frame mechanism to work, the device connected to the switch port must also support IEEE 802.3x flow control.

Flow control is configurable per port in the Configure Ports screen of the console menu, using the on-board Web agent, or via SNMP.

Appendix C. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
10BASE-T	10 Mbps twisted-pair Ethernet
100BASE-TX	100 Mbps twisted-pair Fast Ethernet
100BASE-FX	100 Mbps fiber option Fast Ethernet
1000BASE-T	1000 Mbps twisted-pair Gigabit Ethernet
1000BASE-SX	1000 Mbps fiber option short-wavelength Gigabit Ethernet
1000BASE-LX	1000 Mbps fiber option long-wavelength Gigabit Ethernet
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
BootP	Bootstrap Protocol
CAT5e	Category 5e Ethernet wiring standard
CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Check
CSMA/CD	Carrier Sense Multiple Access/Collision Detection
DCE	Data Communications Equipment (modem)
DSR	Data Send Ready
DTE	Data Terminal Equipment
DTR	Data Terminal Ready
ESD	Electrostatic Discharge
FCS	Frame Check Sequence
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IP	Internet Protocol
LAN	Local Area Network
LED	Light Emitting Diode
MAC	Media Access Control

MDI	Media Dependent Interface
MDI	Media Device Interface
MIB	Management Information Base
RFC	Request for Comment
RMON	Remote Monitoring
RXD	Receive Data.38
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TFTP	Trivial File Transfer Protocol
TXD	Transmit Data
UTP	Unshielded Twisted Pair
VLAN	Virtual LAN

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